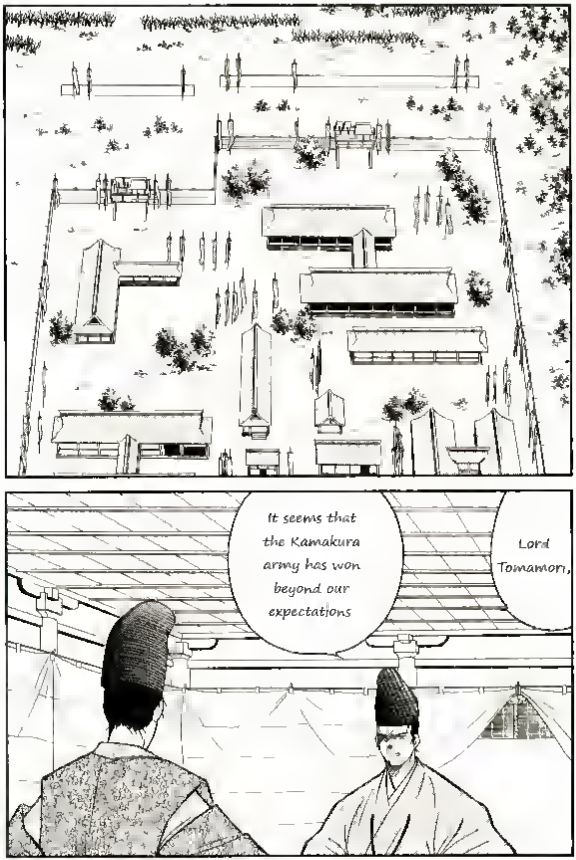
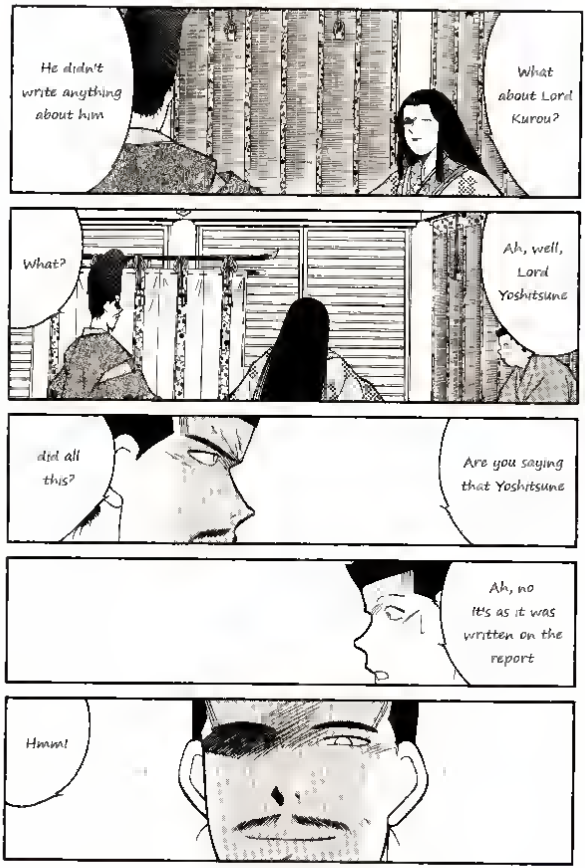
WHAT YOSHITSUNE HAS YEARNED FOR

Hyogo,
Ichi no Tani


It seems that the Kamakura army has won beyond our expectations
Lord Tomamori,

But... by celebrating their easy victory, they forgot who their real enemy is
The General was someone called Yoshitsune
We are not who we are yesterday
Let them celebrate!
Noritsune, with your valor
and this Ichi no Tani fortress,
the world will belong to Heike once more

Yoshinaka has been defeated.
This victory report reached Kamakura
five days after Yoshitsune entered the capital.

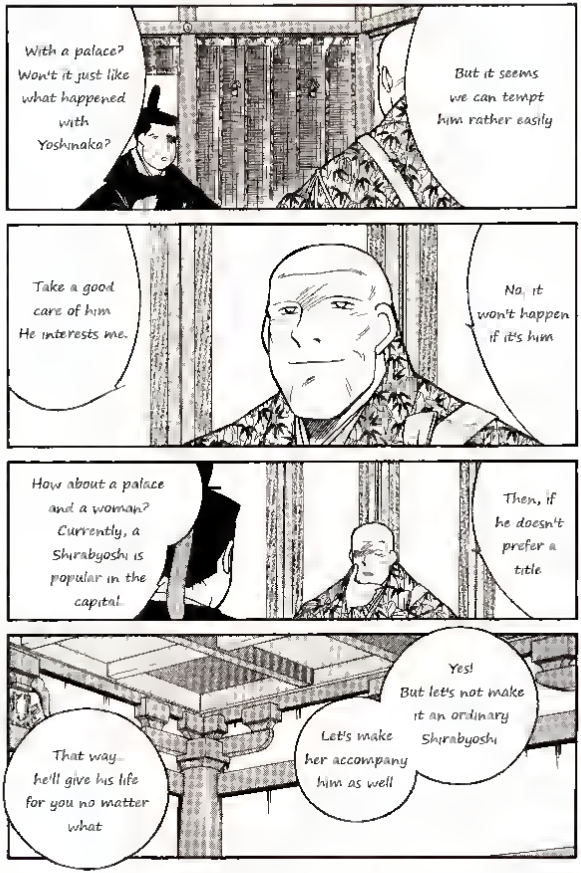

He didn't write anything about him
What about Lord Kurou?
What?
Ah, well, Lord Yoshitsune
did all this?
Are you saying that Yoshitsune
Ah, no it's as it was written on the report
Hmm!

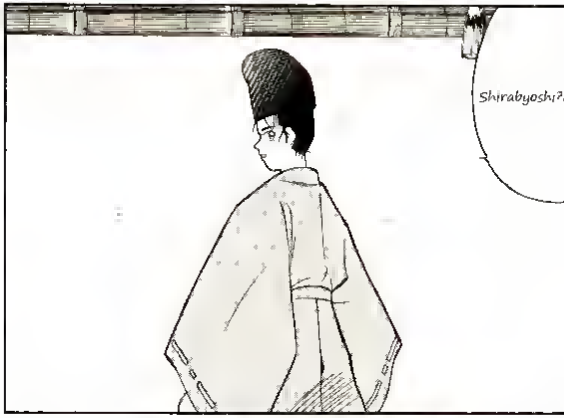
後白河法皇　第七十七代天皇　平「青葉の笛」時子の妹・滋子を自分の妻とするなど、平一門衆の後盾であった。しかし大きくなりすぎた平家の力を恐れ、その仲は反目へと変わっていき、一時は幽閉などもされる。（11－12）

He's extremely polite, so he won't cause any outrage
Especially its General himself Yoshitsune
Moreover He rejuvenate the capital He's been the talk of the women in capital
Oh!
He's graceful and good-looking
He is indeed young
But...
The other General, Norigori, is incomparable to him.

Please order an Imperial Decree of the annihilation of the Heike clan!
I do not wish for anything from Your Majesty but one

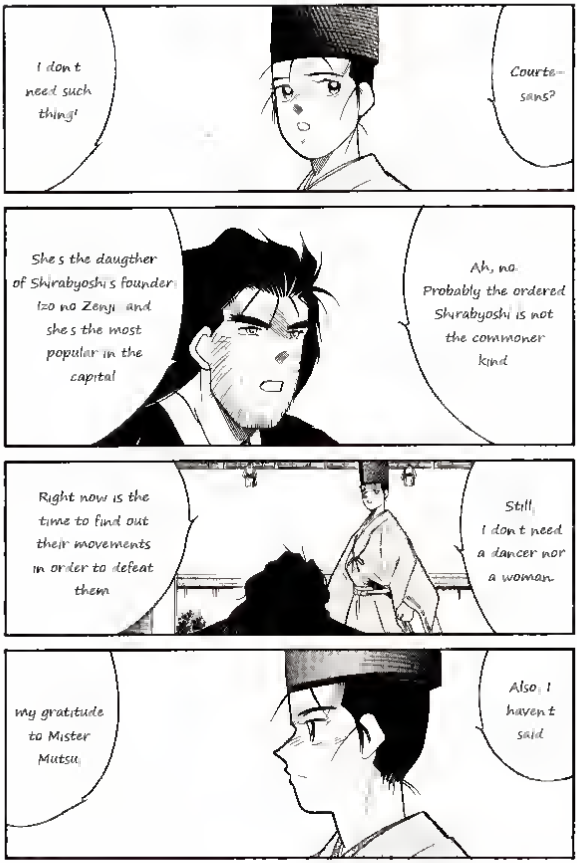
*...ver a ... ee. Off e a Document given by the Emperor


With a palace? Won't it just like what happened with Yoshinaka?
But it seems we can tempt him rather easily
Take a good care of him He interests me.
No, it won't happen if it's him
How about a palace and a woman? Currently, a Shirabyoshi is popular in the capital.
Then, if he doesn't prefer a title
That way... he'll give his life for you no matter what
Let's make her accompany him as well
Yes! But let's not make it an ordinary Shirabyoshi


Shirabyoshi?!

He had ordered a Shirabyoshi to come and perform in this mansion.
Yes! Courtesy of Emperor Go-Shirakawa.

They are female entertainers dressed in men's attire dancing and singing. The commoners sometimes refer them as courtesans.
What's a Shira-byoshi?

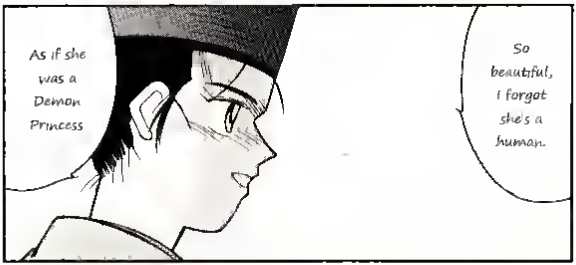

I don't need such thing!
Courte-sans?
She's the daugther of Shirabyoshi's founder Izo no Zenji and she's the most popular in the capital
Ah, no. Probably the ordered Shirabyoshi is not the commoner kind
Right now is the time to find out their movements in order to defeat them
Still, I don't need a dancer nor a woman
my gratitude to Mister Mutsu
Also, I haven't said

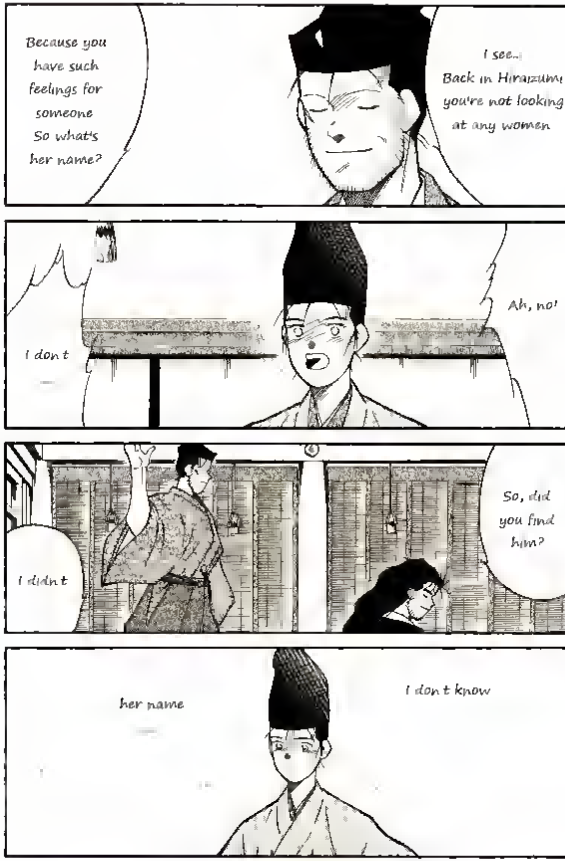
as if he didn't want me to say thanks
He's been gone ever since that time
Saburo is currently searching for him.
If I remember, he said that his sister is living in the capital
About that
She was very beautiful
At the time, she was still aroung 7~8 years old

So it's not him you're trying to find, but his younger sister
Ah, I see— I was thinking that My Lord doesn't want me to find Mister Mutsu

No that's not what I meant I might be popular with women but I won't put my hand on them
Saburo

Was she that beautiful?!


As if she was a Demon Princess
So beautiful, I forgot she's a human.

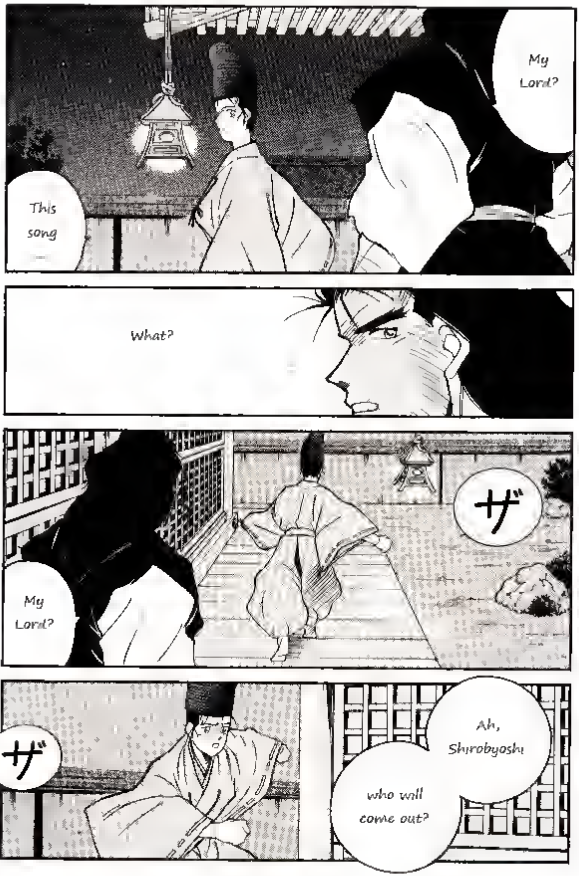

Because you have such feelings for someone So what's her name?
I see... Back in Hiranzumi you're not looking at any women
Ah, no!
I don t
So, did you find him?
I didn t
her name
I don t know

The Shirabyoshi from the palace has arrived
My Lord!
ザ
My Lord
We can't return a gift from the palace,
ザ
It doesn't have to be me Someone else can take my place.
What? Me?
I'm not interested Tadanobu, please take the Lord's place!

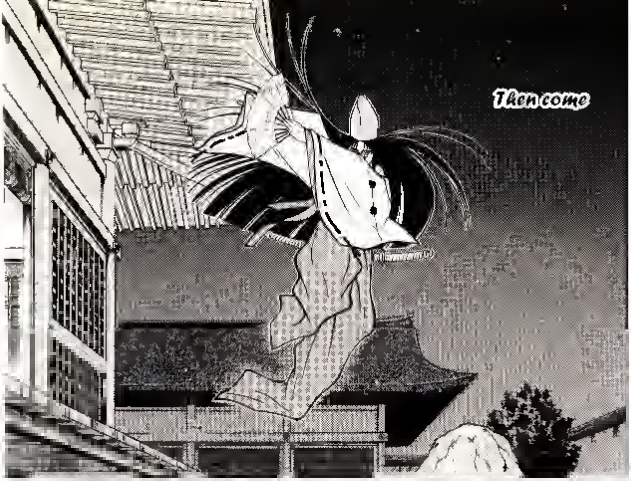
I have come by Emperor's order to entertain you tonight
I am the daughter of Iso no Zenji
She's beautiful
Y Yes!

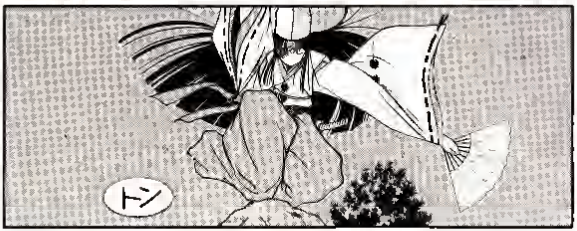
Lord Yoshitsune
Huh? Ah!
Yes, what is it?
Tonight,
I came here to accompany you
Wh- What?!
スッ
Now first, I shall dance.

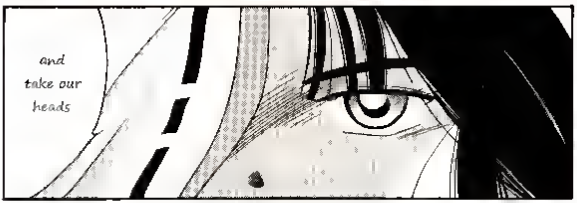
My Lord!
Benkei... It's okay if you also want to watch with everyone else
She might be frightened...
If I were there...


My Lord?
This song
What?
ザ
My Lord?
ザ
Ah, Shirobyoshi
who will come out?

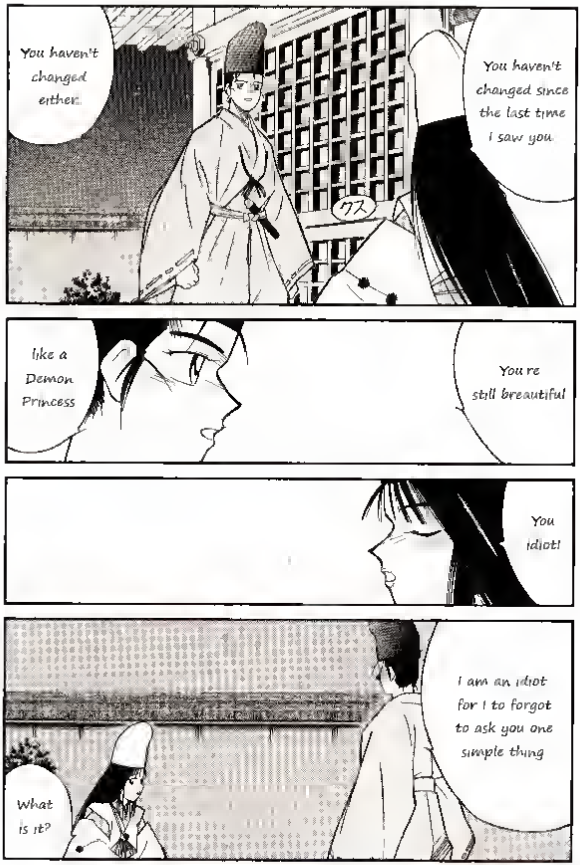
If you are
a true warrior,
If you are
a true knight,


Then come


トン


and
take our
heads

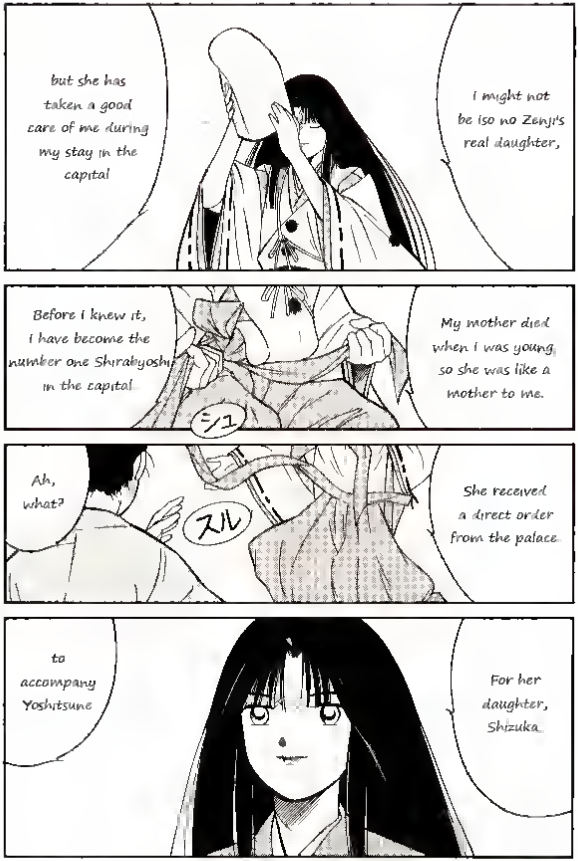
It's you!
this Demon Princess shall devour you
For you to trick me with a body double
Yes!


You haven't changed either.
You haven't changed since the last time I saw you.
ｸｽ
like a Demon Princess
You're still breautiful
You idiot!
I am an idiot for I to forgot to ask you one simple thing
What is it?

ス
To ask for your name
クス
It's Shizuka

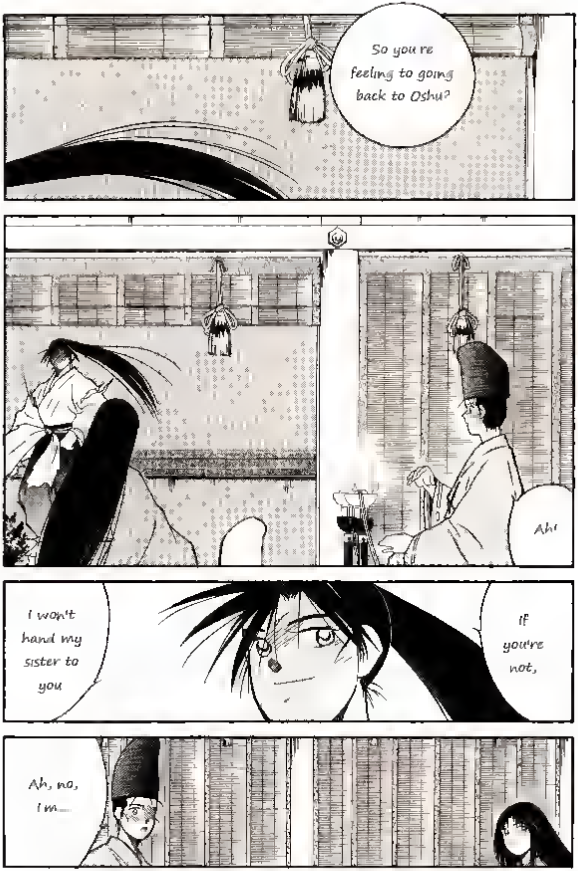
What does this mean?
Tadanobu, you almost took our Lord's beloved one
What? I was only -
We should get over here!
ザ
Lord Benkei?
Or maybe we should get outside of this mansion
Oh, so that's what it is!

What should we do now?
Umm
I shall accompany you!
What? Wait!

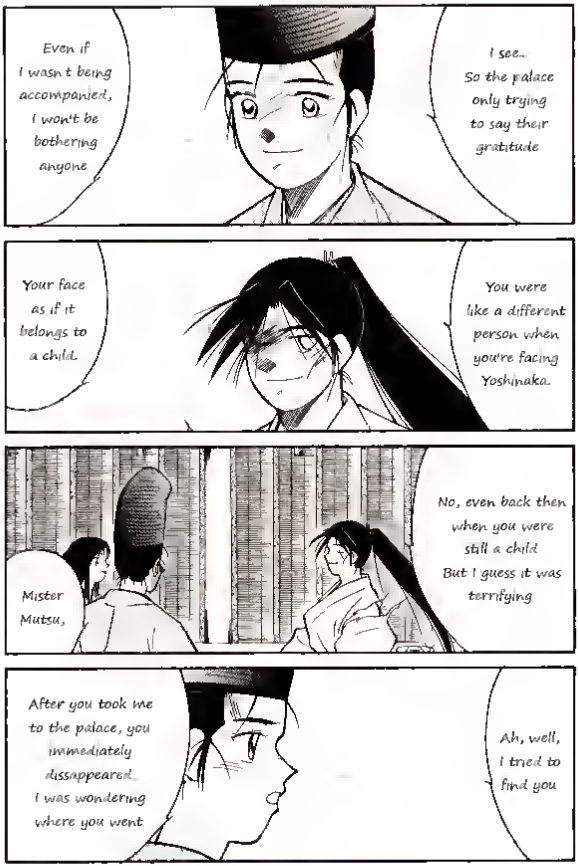

I might not be Iso no Zenji's real daughter,
but she has taken a good care of me during my stay in the capital
My mother died when I was young, so she was like a mother to me.
Before I knew it, I have become the number one Shirabyoshi in the capital
シュ
She received a direct order from the palace
スル
Ah, what?
For her daughter, Shizuka
to accompany Yoshitsune

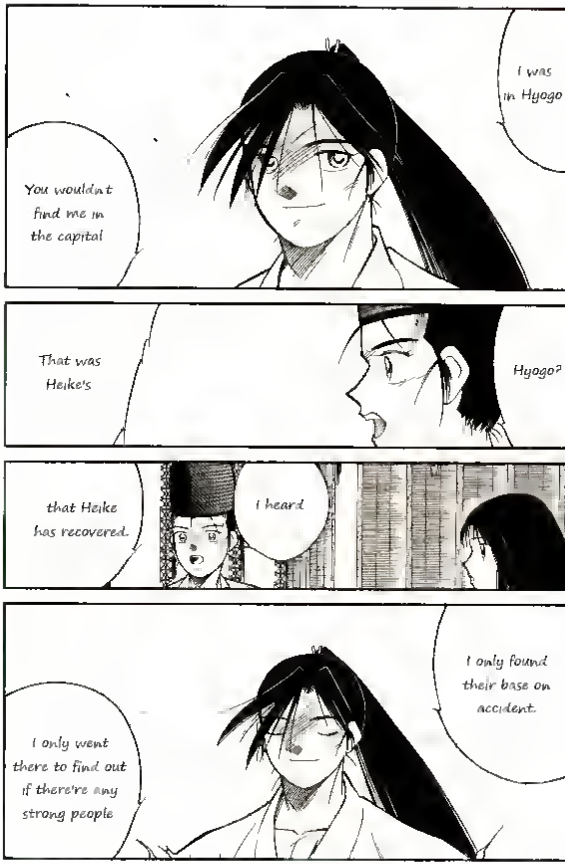
Mother tried to refuse
She said that other Shirabyoshi could do it
and she taught me nothing but the art of Shirabyoshi
But, to go against Emperor's order means that this form of art will meet its end
Even if the palace demands it, I do not wish to be accompanied by someone
Me too If it's other Yoshitsune then I would refuse
とん
What? No but

*Emperor Go-Shirakawa is known to be a fan of art. It's said that he sometimes sings the song "mayu"

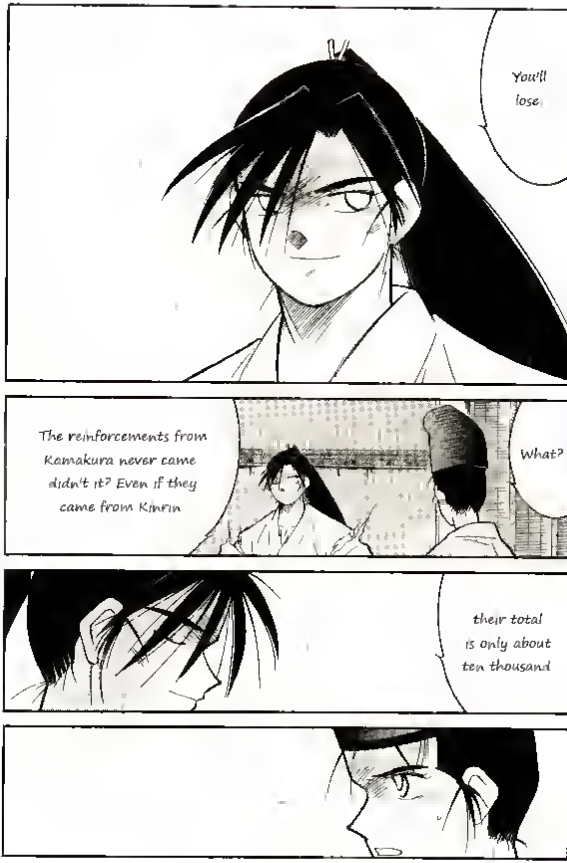

So you're feeling to going back to Oshu?
Ah!
I won't hand my sister to you
If you're not,
Ah, no, I'm...

That's not something you use to tease an innocent and naive man
Ah
ザ
Shizuka doesn't even know what accompanying means.
It means that a man and woman have a sleepover together, right?
I know what it means!
They're not just having a sleepover
ザン
So I was being teased
Dear Brother, what do you mean?


Even if I wasn't being accompanied, I won't be bothering anyone
I see... So the palace only trying to say their gratitude
Your face as if it belongs to a child.
You were like a different person when you're facing Yoshinaka.
Mister Mutsu,
No, even back then when you were still a child But I guess it was terrifying
After you took me to the palace, you immediately dissappeared... I was wondering where you went
Ah, well, I tried to find you


I was in Hyogo
You wouldn't find me in the capital
Hyogo?
That was Heike's
I heard
that Heike has recovered.
I only found their base on accident.
I only went there to find out if there're any strong people

They built a long fortress from the west Ichi no Tani to the east Ikuda forest in Fukuhara
It's true that Heike's army has recovered.
Fukuhara. Currently Kobe
Their soldier count is about twenty thousand
What are you going to do, General?
It's disadvantageous to defend in the capital. Moreover, I don't want to cause harm to its citizens. I will get out and fight
I will attack them

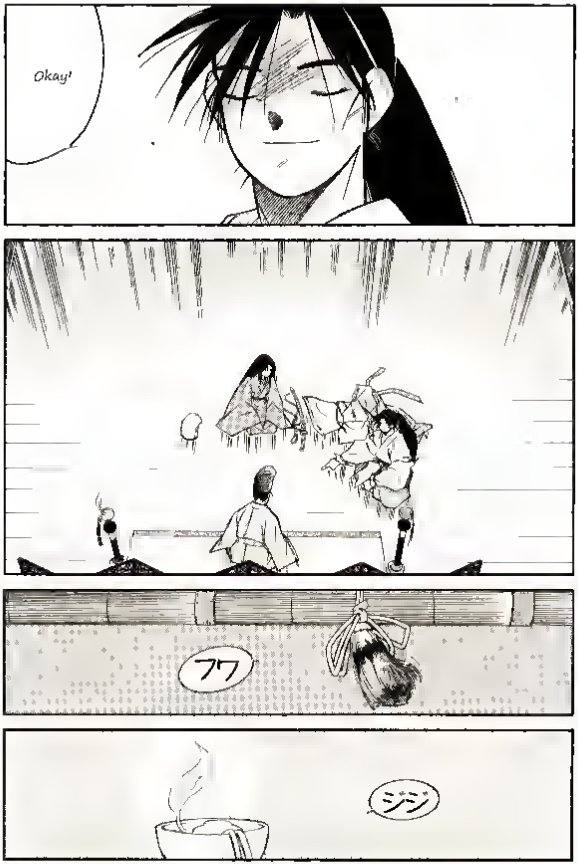

You'll lose.
The reinforcements from Kamakura never came didn't it? Even if they came from Kinrin
What?
their total is only about ten thousand

and the brave Noritsune
In Heike clan there's someone with intellect by the name Tomomori
before he dies in this useless war
He's a warrior I wanted to compare strength with
You'll win

Hey!
How...
Miss Shizuka?
All you have to do is ask my Dear Brother.
Lord Yoshi-tsune,
?
Oh, come on!

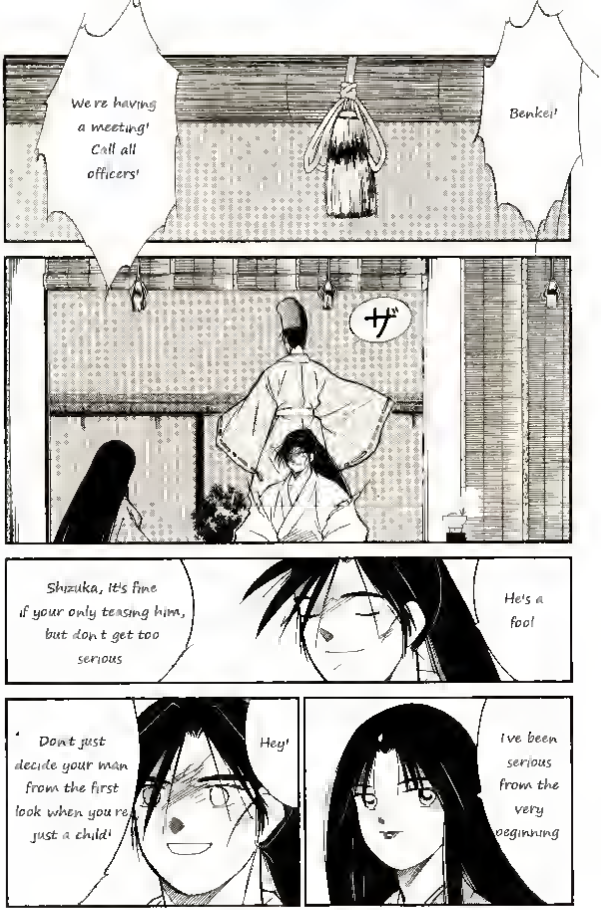
ポリ
Mister Mutsu?!
No,
I won't ask you if it's impossible When we were trying to enter the capital, even if that was just an advice it's already enough
So in the end, you're still going huh?
Dear Brother!
I didn't say
it's impossible

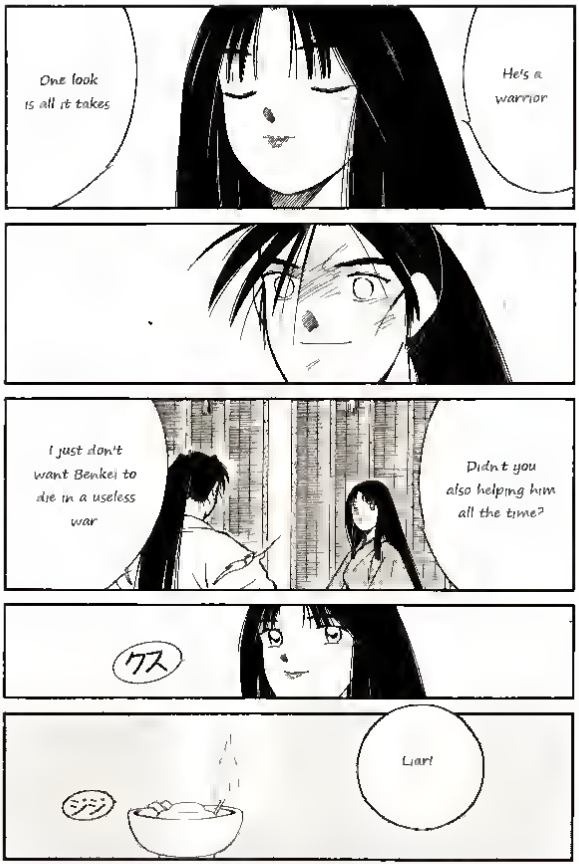
Still you can't actually call this a plan
Will you still hear it?
If it's something coming from you, Mister Mutsu
Then, I, Yoshi-tsune,
will hear it no matter how it is.


Okay!
ﾌﾌ
ｼﾞﾝ

How is it?
I say the chances are one-to-ten

I'm in your debt!


We're having a meeting! Call all officers!
Benkei!
ザ
Shizuka, it's fine if your only teasing him, but don't get too serious
He's a fool
Don't just decide your man from the first look when you're just a child!
Hey!
I've been serious from the very beginning


One look is all it takes
He's a warrior
I just don't want Benkei to die in a useless war
Didn't you also helping him all the time?
クス
Liar!
ジジ

What are you saying Lord Kurou?
I, Kajiwara Kagetoki shall not approve this!
You're trying to attack the Heike while your soldier is still tired!
The Heike has reached Fukuhara
Elder Brother
Kurou
from the west of Ichi no Tani to the east Ikuda Forest
Moreover, they built a fortress

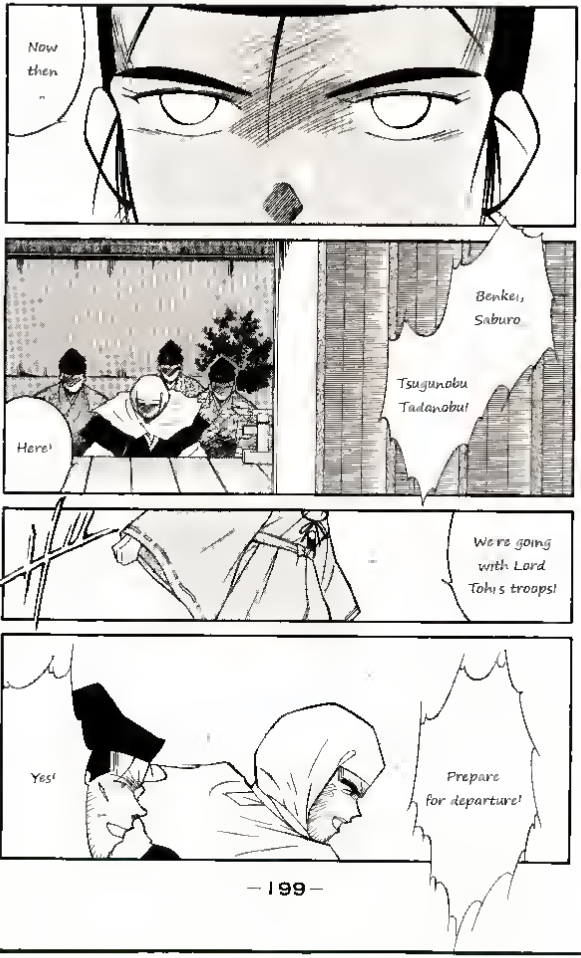
We can't win if we defend ourselves in the capital. You should've known when we fought Lord Yoshinaka
Then don't say such reckless thing!
You're not the only one who defeated Yoshinaka. It was thanks to the main force.
Don't get me wrong Lord Kurou
when you recklessly entered the capital
Moreover, It was I who supported you
There, there, Hatakeyama
You're wrong, Lord Kajiwara.

Kurou!
Indeed, it was thanks to Elder Brother's troops that we were able to win
Therefore, in this battle as well... I would like the main force to attack to the east at Ikuda Forest.
As for me, once again, I will command the support troops. I'm also fine with five hundred men.
What about you?
If you're taking the support troops, then are you taking the mountain path through western Harima and Akashi to reach Ichi no Tani?
And where are you planning to go once again?

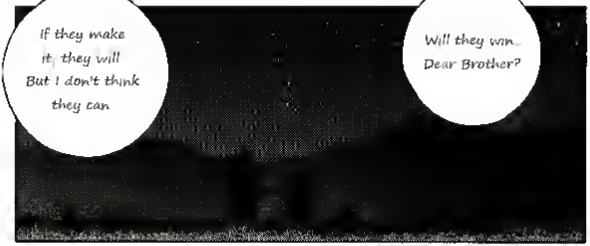
Harima: Currently Southwest Hyogo Prefecture.

something I cannot say.
That's
Then, right now I will depart according to your plan
You're not even telling us?
Huh?! Would you quit your joke?
we will be attacking from.
I don't even know the place
If you're planning on going do it alone!
My troops shall join the main force!
What! And you call that a strategy? I shall take this as a dismissal!

What are you going to say?
How about now?
Lord Toh!!
Then me and my two thousand men shall join Lord Kurou's troops.
Useless Sanehira...
D— Do as you pleased
It will be troub- ling...
If there're two officers in the main force,
I'm in your debt.
Is that fine, Lord Kurou.
But if we couldn't find a path like you planned, we're going to attack Ichi no Tani fortress by the sea from Harima


Now then ..
Here!
Benkei, Saburo
Tsugunobu Tadanobu!
We're going with Lord Toh1's troops!
Yes!
Prepare for departure!

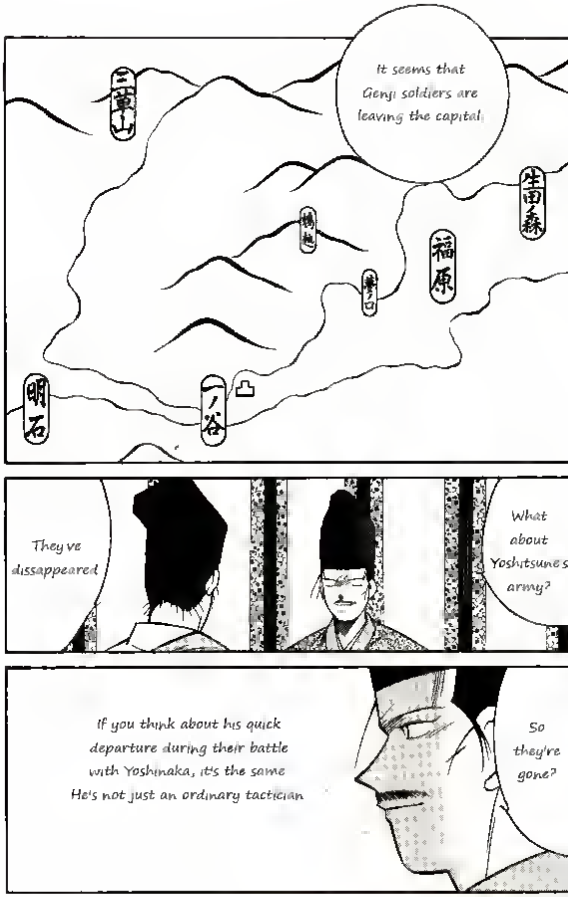
Thus,
third year of Juei (1184),
beginning of February,
Yoshitsune, along with Tohi Sanehira,
totaling two thousand men,
disappeared from the capital.


If they make it, they will But I don't think they can
Will they win... Dear Brother?

What's with your outfit?
for coming up with such reckless plan.
Then when that happens, you will take responsibility

We'll follow them in secret
It's so you'll help them when they're losing.
I'm going as well?

Of course you are... Dear Brother
You're taking me there


It seems that Genji soldiers are leaving the capital
二軍山
生田森
福原
明石
一ノ谷
They've dissappeared
What about Yoshitsune's army?
If you think about his quick departure during their battle with Yoshinaka, it's the same
He's not just an ordinary tactician
So they're gone?

Lord Tomomori?
There's no need to worry, Noritsune
Tomomori, can still see them
Even if they're gone and dissappeared
ジャリ
They're here!
ピン

第九巻に続く

作者あとがき

この巻でいよいよ義経は歴史の表舞台に登場する。

当然身にまとうのは大鎧に兜……になって、たいへんなのである。描くのが……。

なんといっても僕は絵が下手なために、アシスタントさんに負担がかかる。そりゃあもうかかるかかる。当時の人は戦争にも美意識が必要だと考えていたらしく、必要域をはるかに越えて華美なのである。源義仲の兜には龍まで付いてるし（もっともこれは義仲が実際にこの兜を着用していたという史実がある訳ではなく、護国八幡宮にある義仲像がどうもこの様な兜をかぶっている様に見えたのと、しかも実際にあるんだよこんなやつが）。

そして、義経に至っては伝（つまり本当かどうかは分からないってこと）義経奉納という鎧が現存していて、こいつがまた変わってて胴丸鎧とかの特注品らしくて、他の者のとは形状が違うんだよ。『えっどこが？』と思った人、見直さなくてもいいです、漫画なんて重箱のすみをつつく様に見るもんじゃありませんから（とは言いながら、意識してこだわった処に気が付いてくれる人も好きだったりする）。どこが違うのかと言うと、草摺（腰の周りにある剣道の垂れ

みたいなやつね）の数が普通の大鎧の四枚に対して、七枚あるというところが見て分かる違い……なんだけれど、胴丸鎧と言われてる通り大鎧と胴丸（下っ端の兵が着てるやつ）の合体型で構造からして違うので他にも違いは幾つもあるのですよ。

絵を描く時はそういった構造から理解して描かないといけないんだから、偉いもんです……無論僕がではなくアシスタントさんが。おかげでアシスタントの一人は当時の武具を描かせたら日本でもベストテンに入る程になってしまった（日本中で何人鎧を描いてる人が居るのかという質問は聞かないことにする）。

とまあ、自分が馬鹿な事を承知しているものだから一応いろいろ調べて描いている訳です。例えば兜のてっぺんから出ている黒いもの……あれは烏帽子（中に髷が入っている）が天辺の座という穴（正確に言えば穴自体は天辺の穴と言う……そのまんまやね）から出ている状態で、それによって当時の兜はぐらつきを防いでいたというもの。ちなみに、鎌倉時代後期以降になって髪をたらし烏帽子に鉢巻きをする様になったとの事。つまりテレビなどで鉢巻きをしているのは映像的に見映えがするから……らしいのだが、僕が馬鹿なのはやはり漫画を読めば分かるのかファンレターに書かれるのである。『本当は○○らしいですが、川原さんのも私は好きです』……と。いや、好きなんだからいいんです、

いいんですが……ちょっと悲しいのですよ。『本当は○○～』の本当というのがお父さんに聞いた、テレビで見た……だったりするから。お父さんに負けるのはまだしもテレビに負けるのは悔しい……よなぁ。

そんなわけで、この巻は鬼一の活躍が少なくてある意味ものたりない事もあるやも知れませんが、気合いだけは入ってます。もしできるならば次巻にも見捨てることなくおつき合い願いたいと存じます。

平成九年　八月八日　川原正敏

●この本には、月刊少年マガジン1997年3月号から5月号にかけて掲載された作品を収録しました。

題字／近藤豊彩

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東京都文京区音羽二丁目十二番二十一号
（郵便番号一一二―〇一）
「講談社コミックス月刊」編集部

N.D.C. 726　207p　18cm

講談社コミックス（月マ）
修羅の刻 ⑧
589巻

1997年9月17日　第1刷発行
定価はカバーに表示してあります。

著者　川原正敏
発行者　五十嵐隆夫
発行所　株式会社講談社
東京都文京区音羽二丁目十二番二十一号（郵便番号一一二―〇一）
電話　編集部（03）五三九五・三四五八
販売部（03）五三九五・三六〇八

印刷所　図書印刷株式会社
製本所　図書印刷株式会社

落丁本・乱丁本は、小社雑誌業務部宛にお送りください。送料小社負担にてお取替します。
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ISBN4-06-333589-5　（月マ）　Printed in Japan

MUTSU ENMEI RYUU GAIDEN - SHURA NO TOKI

VOLUME 8 CHAPTER 3

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